

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 13 have been canceled, and claims 1, 3-6, 12, 14-17 and 25 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 7-9, 11, 12, 18, 19 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nobuyasu et al. in view of Seta and Habbe et al.; claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nobuyasu et al. in view of Seta, Habbe et al. and Lee et al; and claims 2-6 and 13-17 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the subject matter recited in dependent claims 2 and 13, respectively. Note, subject matter from claim 13 incorporated into claim 12 has been slightly modified to indicate the outputted data corresponds to a latched VPI/VCI of a cell (similar to dependent claim 2). Further, independent claim 25 has also been amended to include features similar to that as recited in dependent claim 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 12 and 25

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and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable and the rejections noted in the Office Action are moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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